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PSI FORCE™

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PSI FORCE

An interview with **Wayne Tucker,**
Excerpted from PLAYBOY MAGAZINE, April issue, 1998

PLAYBOY: *Wayne, you've come out of hiding to tell your story, right? So where does it begin?*

TUCKER: Honestly, I think we had about six beginnings and four endings. You must mean the beginning of the end, eh? The events that developed after World War III started?

PLAYBOY: *That's right. Your recruitment of Sedara Bakut, specifically.*

TUCKER: (grinning) That was our first little trip into Afghanistan. It was also our first official assignment for the **Medusa Web** -- but that's a whole 'nother interview altogether, right?

Babel -- that was *Thame Panagitis* -- realized we were very shorthanded for what we had in mind -- this was after we'd lost *Ty, Stasi,* and *Kathy...*

PLAYBOY: *Wait, I thought that they'd come back --*

TUCKER: Yeah, sure, later, Ty an' Kath came back -- so did Crawley for that matter -- but this was after we'd been put through the wringer. We'd just killed **Rodstvow**, just survived *Tensen*'s judgement, and endured the Web's training procedure -- there were just four of us then -- *Thomas Boyd* was the adrenaline vampire, cute thing callin' him that after what we learned; Linds... *Lindsey Falmon* was an object empath and *Johnny Do* was an autistic pyrokinetic... still is for that matter.

PLAYBOY: *How has the young man been since the incident at Los Alamos?*

TUCKER: He's breathin'. We're all breathin'. Anyway, Panagitis wanted us to stop a Soviet supply route through Afghanistan. He was always afraid of the Soviets gaining control of the Gulf region.

The secondary function of the mission was to gain access to a young Afghan girl who was rumored to be a very powerful paranorm -- silly how we perpetuate those stereotypes ourselves -- an' we did...

PLAYBOY: *But?*

TUCKER: I guess you must be a mind-reader too (laughing, lighting a cigarette, long pause). But we didn't have any idea what we were getting ourselves into... not that day... not the day after... but years down the road...

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THE FIST OF LOVE
MAY 13, 1989. HERAT, NEAR THE AFGHAN/STAN-IRANIAN BORDER.
THE SOVIET SUPPLY CAMP HAS MAINTAINED A STEADY FLOW OF ARMS TO THE TROOPS FIGHTING TO CONSOLIDATE IRAN UNDER COMMUNIST RULE.
THE MUJAHEDIN -- AFGHAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS -- HAVE ACCEPTED THE LOSS OF THEIR COUNTRY TO THE RUSSIAN BEAR...
... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY HAVE STOPPED FIGHTING.
THERE -- THEY DON'T SEE US --

URK!

LINC-- I STILL THINK THIS IS A STUPID IDEA--
MAYBE SO, SGT. MAJOR--

-- BUT BETTER A STUPID IDEA, THAN NONE AT ALL.

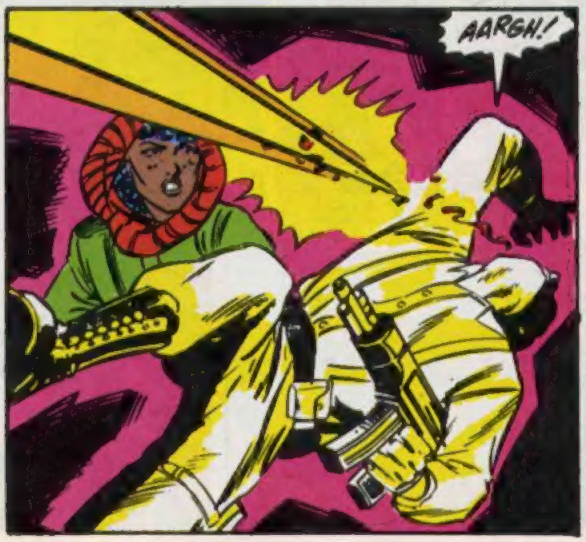
YOU WERE SAYING?

HOSNI--THE TOWER--
IN THREE SECONDS--

AAAGH!
PRRT PRRT
PRRT

HOSNI!
CUT THEM DOWN--RETREAT AS YOU FIRE--
PRRT
PRRT
PRRT
PRRT
PRRT

LINC--LET'S USE SEDARA--


AARGH!

SGT. MAJOR?
SGT. MAJOR?!
AW, NO...
LINCOLN?

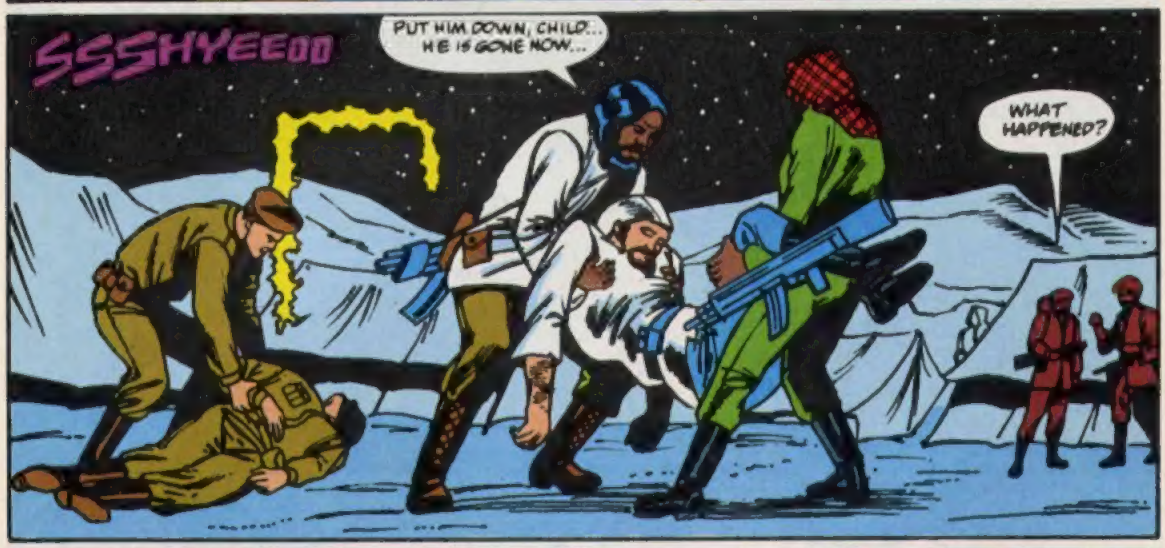
I KNOW, BAKUT!
SEDARA-- GET US OUT OF HERE!

SHOOOOOO

OOOOOSSFFFSHUMMM
AAGH
ARGH
PRRT
CHTO?
EH?
AFFH!
HURRY, SEDARA!

<WHAT IS THAT?>
<IT LOOKS LIKE A MIRROR OF SOME SORT?>
<LET'S FOLLOW THEM!>
<BUT THEY WALKED THROUGH IT!>
<YOU GO FIRST.>

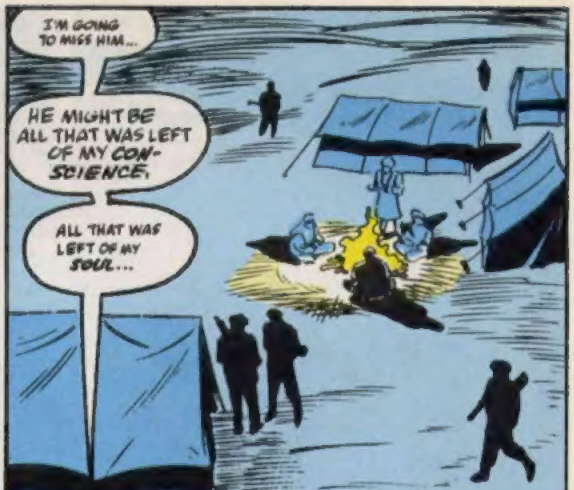
CLOSE IT, SEDARA-- QUICKLY!


SSSHYEEOO
PUT HIM DOWN, CHILD... HE IS GONE NOW...
WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED, YOU IDIOT?
WE WERE AMBUSHED!
NOW HELP US TEND TO HOSNI AND SGT. MAJOR!

LINCOLN... I AM SORRY... HE WAS A GOOD FIGHTER...
YES...

...HE WAS A GOOD FRIEND.


I'M GOING TO MISS HIM...
HE MIGHT BE ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF MY CON-SCIENCE.
ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF MY SOUL...

WE MUST PREPARE FOR A SOVIET ASSAULT-- AND OUR OWN COUNTERSTRIKE--
HOSNI AND THE SERGEANT MAJOR SHALL NOT GO UNAVENGED!

I AM SORRY, LINCOLN.
IT'S MY FAULT, SEDARA.
WE CONFIRMED OUR GREATEST FEARS...

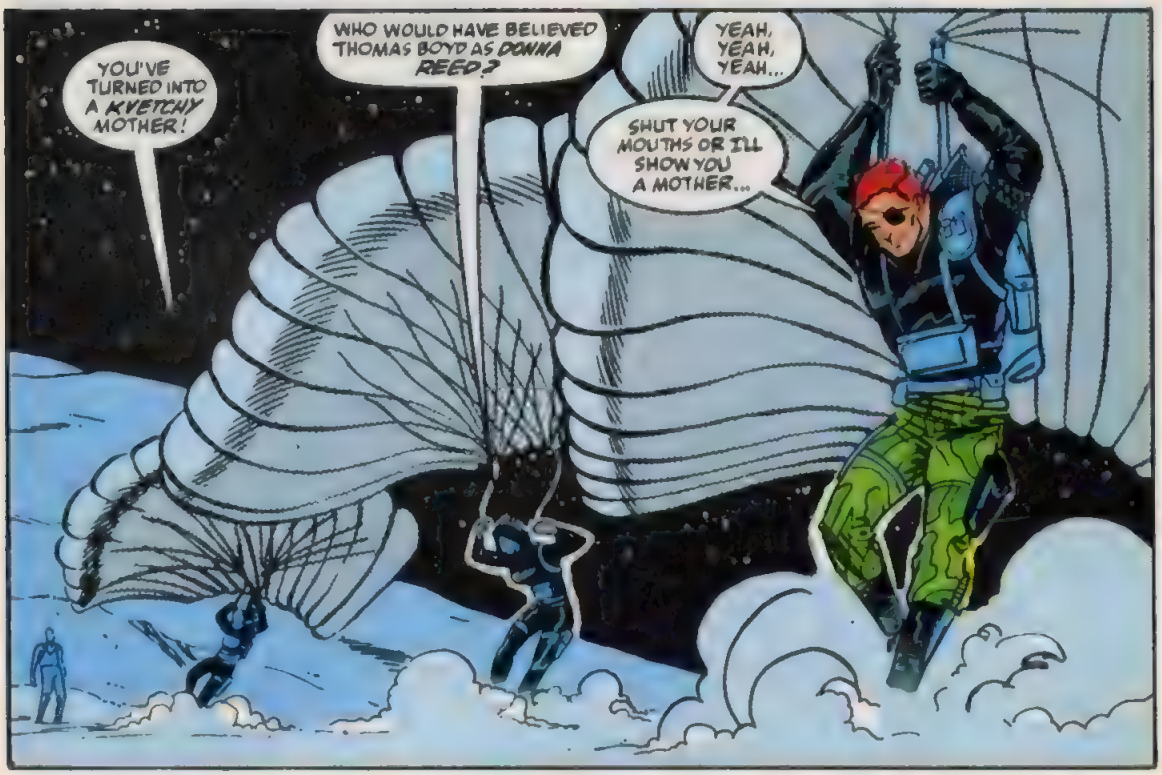
AND ALL IT COST US WAS TWO GOOD WARRIORS.
THERE'S A TRAITOR IN THIS CAMP.
AND HE'S GOING TO PAY FOR THIS!

SIX HOURS LATER, OVER MASHAD, IRAN.
TWENTY MINUTES, PEOPLE. ARE YOU READY.
AS WE'LL EVER BE, BABEL.
JUST TELL DUSTOFF THAT IF HE LURCHES DURING THE DROPOFF LIKE HE DID DURING THE PRACTICE RUNS, I'LL TOSS MY COOKIES IN HIS HELMET!
DID YOU GET THAT, DUSTOFF?
HIS COOKIES IN MY HELMET. YUP. GOT IT.
FINE, THEN.
GO!
ENTHUSIASTIC LITTLE DICTATOR, ISN'T HE?

EVERYONE OKAY? LINDS--?
IT'S KIND OF.. PEACE-FUL.
TUCKER-- CHECK ON JOHNNY.
WSHSH
AH!
FWOOOSH
JOHNNY!
WAYNE-- STOP HIM!
NO-- HE'S FINE--
IN FACT...
...HE'S HAVING FUN.
GO FIGURE.

OOOOOO
FZSHWOOO
Y'GOTTA RELAX WITH HIM, THOMAS.. LET HIM LEARN ON HIS OWN.

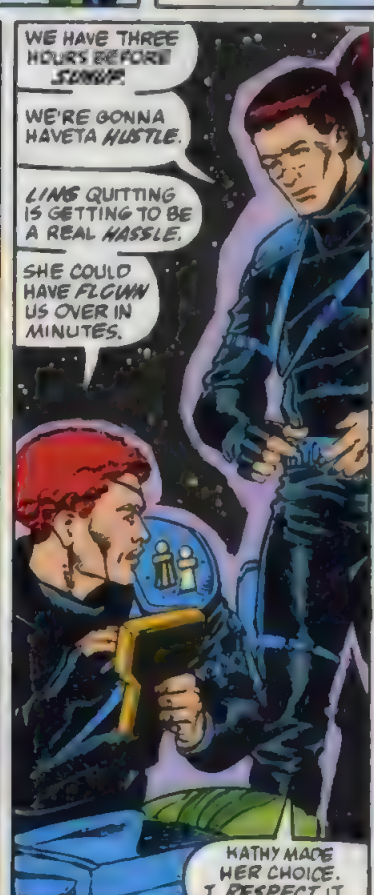
KID'S GOT A REAL NATURAL CURIOSITY ABOUT THINGS.
BE THE DEATH OF ME YET.


YOU'VE TURNED INTO A KVETCHY MOTHER!
WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THOMAS BOYD AS DONNA REED?
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH...
SHUT YOUR MOUTHS OR I'LL SHOW YOU A MOTHER...

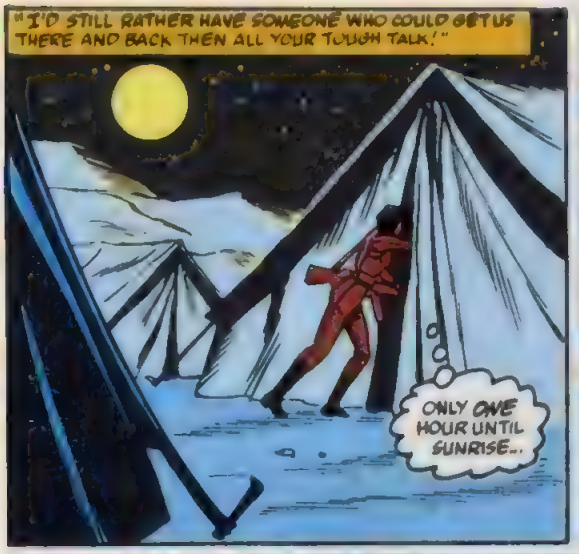
HE'S HELPING ME BURY MY PARACHUTE!
'COS HE REALIZES YOU'RE LAGGING BEHIND EVERYONE ELSE, TUCKER.

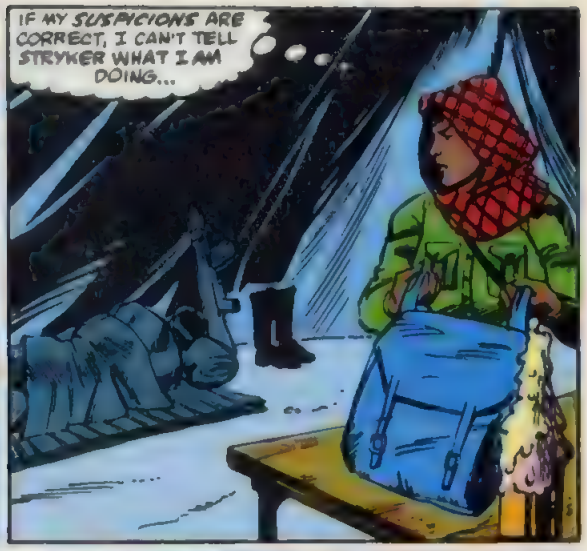
LESS TALKING AND MORE WALKING.
WHICH WAY?
IN A SECOND, LINDS.

OUR POSITION'S MARKED IN RED.
THE SUPPLY CAMP IS ABOUT SIX KILOMETERS NORTHEAST.


WE HAVE THREE HOURS BEFORE SUNUP.
WE'RE GONNA HAVETA HUSTLE.
LINS QUITTING IS GETTING TO BE A REAL HASSLE.
SHE COULD HAVE FLOWN US OVER IN MINUTES.
KATHY MADE HER CHOICE. I RESPECT IT.

JUS' LIKE I FEEL SORRY FOR ANYONE WHO DOESN'T RESPECT OURS!


"I'D STILL RATHER HAVE SOMEONE WHO COULD GET US THERE AND BACK THEN ALL YOUR TOUGH TALK!"
ONLY ONE HOUR UNTIL SUNRISE...

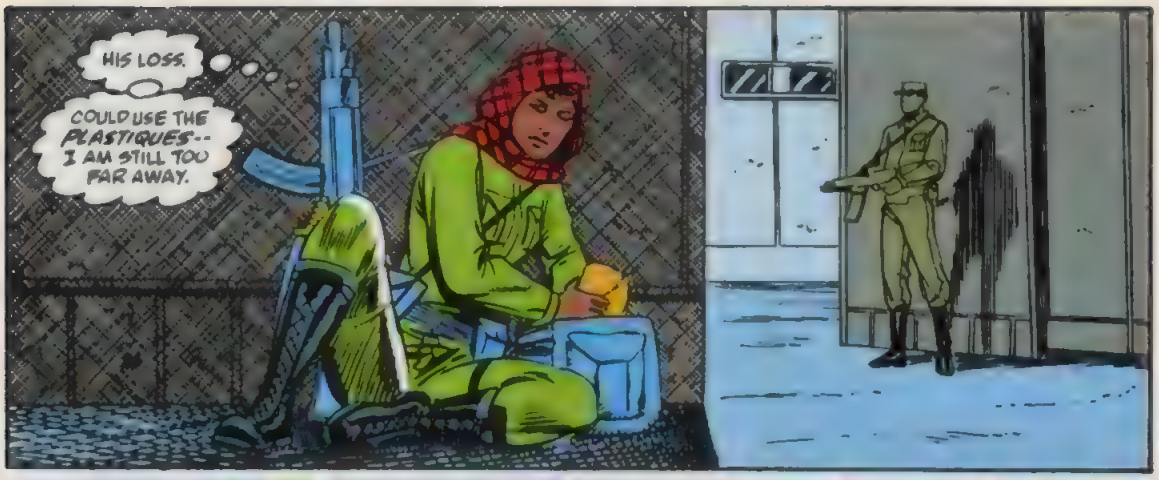

IF MY SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, I CAN'T TELL STRYKER WHAT I AM DOING...

SHOOOOO
..FIRST, I WILL AVENGE THE DEATHS OF MY WARRIOR-BROTHERS...

...THEN THE MAN WHO BETRAYED US WILL PAY!

SCSCYEEEOOO
ONLY ONE MAN POSTED AT THE STORAGE SHED.

OBVIOUSLY, THE TRAITOR IN OUR CAMP HAS TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT NO FURTHER ATTACKS WERE PLANNED.


HIS LOSS.
COULD USE THE PLASTIQUES-- I AM STILL TOO FAR AWAY.

THIS REQUIRES A MORE PERSONAL TOUCH...

...A MORE ENJOYABLE ONE!

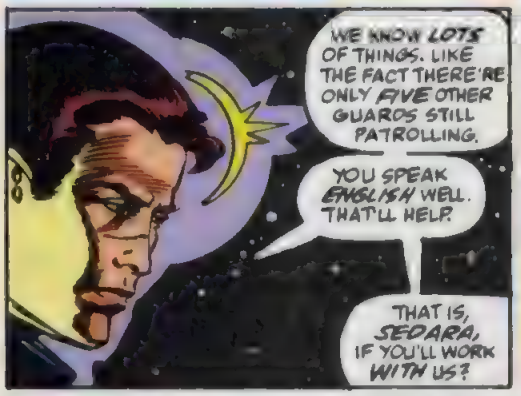
FOR MY SLAIN MOTHER AND BROTHER--

AAACK!

SHHH!
PUT THE GUN DOWN OR YOU LOSE YOUR FACE.
GOOD
YOU'RE A PRETTY FAST DRAW, LITTLE GIRL.
COLD, TOO, USING A BLADE LIKE THAT..
BUT SOMETIMES, IT PAYS TO SEE THEIR EYES...
... KIND OF GIVES YOU THIS FEELING OF POWER...
...IT'S MORE FUN THAN PINNING HIS NECK WITH A KNIFE AT THIRTY FEET--
CHTO?
THAT'S A PROBLEM WE KEEP RUNNING INTO WITH THE RUSSIANS -- THEY'RE ALL GEEKS!
ZZZAK!
NEAT TRICK YOU LEARNED ABOUT MY POWERS, LINDS..
YOU TRIGGER YOUR LEECHING ENZYME THROUGH BIOELECTRICAL STIMULATION--
--WHICH CAN JUST AS EASILY BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH A METALLIC OBJECT INTO A TARGET.
LEECHING SOMEONE THROUGH A BOLO AND COPPER WIRE MAY NOT BE AS MUCH FUN AS JAMMING ON THEIR HEADS...

... BUT IT GETS THE JOB DONE.
WHICH IS WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO. LINDS?
HE WALKED THROUGH DEPOTS THREE AND SIX--

THAT'S WHERE THEY KEEP THEIR MAJOR ARMAMENTS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?


WE KNOW LOTS OF THINGS. LIKE THE FACT THERE'RE ONLY FIVE OTHER GUARDS STILL PATROLLING.
YOU SPEAK ENGLISH WELL. THAT'LL HELP.
THAT IS, SEDARA, IF YOU'LL WORK WITH US?

YOU KNOW MY NAME?
HE IS AS YOUNG AS I AM-- BUT SO INNOCENT.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

SAME REASON AS YOU, BUT WE'RE HERE TO DO IT RIGHT.
DON'T MIND HIM. HE'S A CAVEMAN FROM THE NECK UP.
THIS SOVIET SUPPLY CAMP HAS BEEN PROLONGING THE CONVENTIONAL WAR RAGING IN IRAN. WE'RE HERE TO STOP THAT.
WE'RE KIND'A LIKE GOD'S NAUGHTY ANGELS.
YOU--YOU'VE TALKED TO ME BEFORE--IN MY MIND --
YUP.

YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO HAVE TEA NOW?

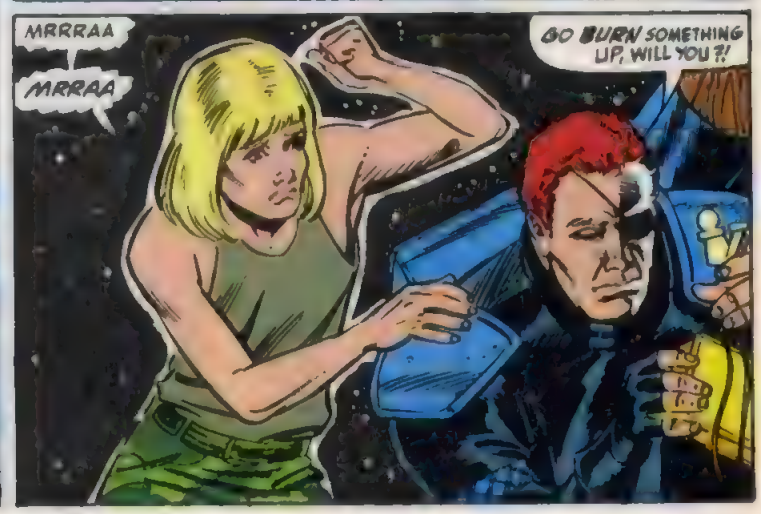
AYUH.
WANT TO BLOW UP A COMMIE ARMY CAMP, YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF!

COME WITH LINDS AND ME--WE'LL HAVE THIS DONE IN THREE MINUTES--
--BUT YOU HAVE TO TRUST US.
WE DO MORE THAN JUST BLOW THINGS UP AND WE DO MORE THAN FIGHT FOR REVENGE.

CHARGE IS SET FOR THREE MINUTES, KIDS.

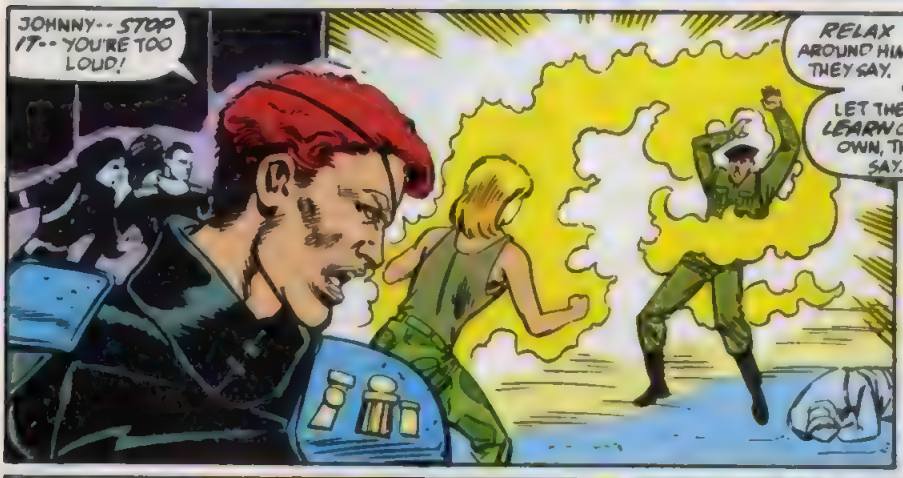
AAAA
AAAAA
NOT NOW, JOHNNY--DADDY'S BUSY SETTING UP EXPLOSIVE CHARGES!

MEWL?


MRRRAA
MRRAA
GO BURN SOMETHING UP, WILL YOU?!

?

FWOOSH
AAYEEEE!
HUH?


JOHNNY-- STOP IT-- YOU'RE TOO LOUD!
RELAX AROUND HIM, THEY SAY.
LET THE KID LEARN ON HIS OWN, THEY SAY.

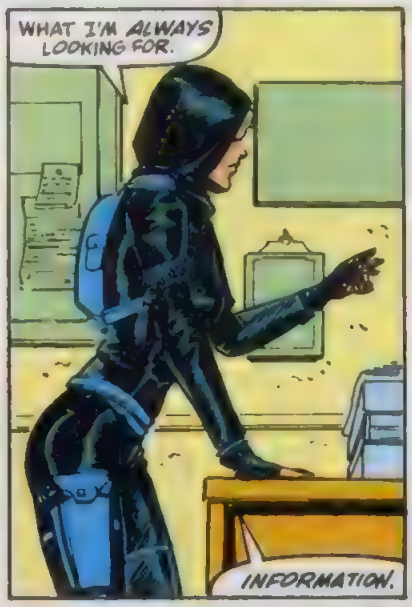
AND I LISTEN!

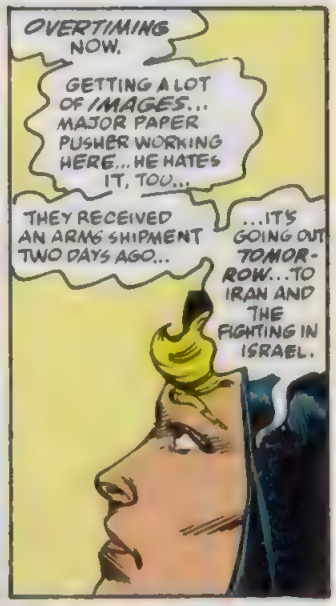
THEY GOT A SEARCH-SWEEP GOING!
THEY HEARD US--
--YOU'D BETTER BE QUICK ABOUT THIS!
WE GOT TWO MINUTES AND THIRTY SECONDS LEFT, RIGHT?

«AS SILENT AS THE DESERT NIGHT...»

QUIET-- QUIET.
URK

-- AS A MOUSE.
WHAT'RE YOU EXPECTIN' TO FIND ANYWAY?


WHAT I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR.
INFORMATION.

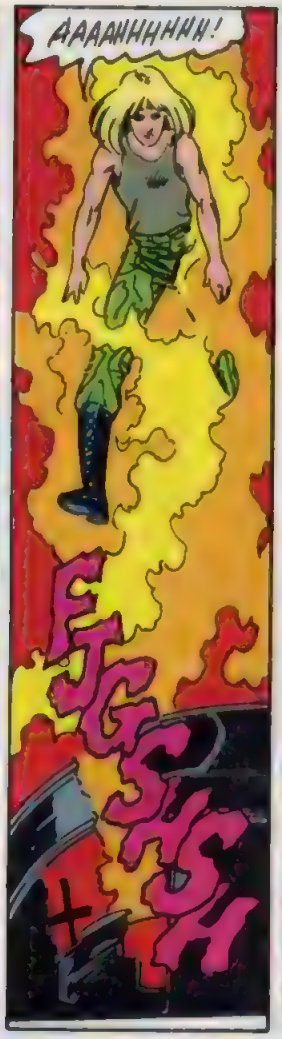

OVERTIMING NOW.
GETTING A LOT OF IMAGES... MAJOR PAPER PUSHER WORKING HERE... HE HATES IT, TOO...
THEY RECEIVED AN ARMS SHIPMENT TWO DAYS AGO...
...IT'S GOING OUT TOMORROW...TO IRAN AND THE FIGHTING IN ISRAEL.

THAT IS WHY WE TRY TO SABOTAGE EARLIER.
THEY KNEW YOU WERE COMING. YOU HAVE A TRAITOR IN YOUR CAMP.
I BELIEVE IT IS AN AMERICAN-- LINCOLN STRYKER--A MERCENARY-- NOT A TRUE MUJAHEDIN.

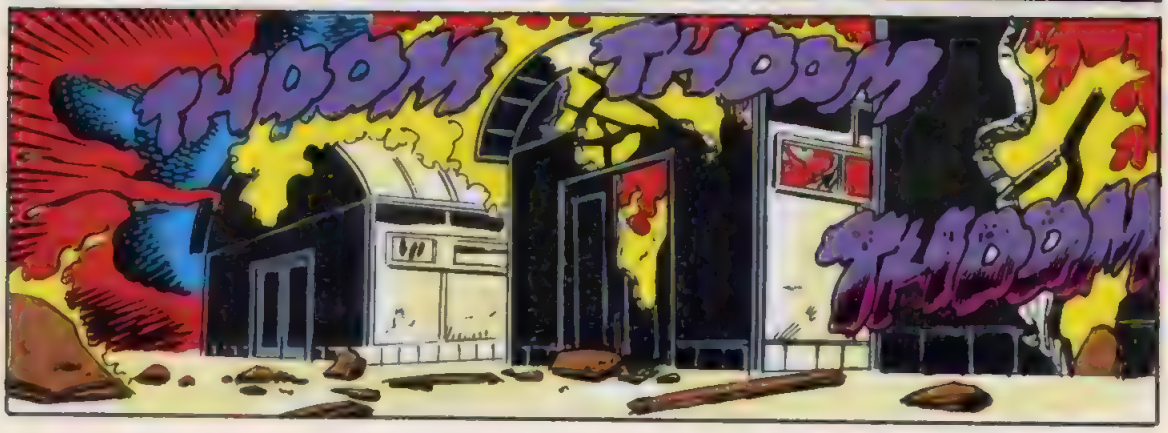
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE THE ANSWER.
HON--?
HMMM... YOU'RE RIGHT...
BOYD--

NOW!
YEAH. YEAH. YEAH.
CLIK

WHOA!
KUK
THOOM


AAAAHHHHH!
FJGSHSH

OOPA!
CHUK
THOOM


THOOM
THOOM
THOOM

GET MORE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS!
YOU ARE JOKING-- AREN'T YOU?
COULDN'T WE STAY AND WATCH THEM TRY?
SADIST.

FSSH
SEDARA--GET US OUT OF HERE--

YOU--YOU KNOW?
MANY THINGS, RIGHT? VERY WELL THEN...

SHOOOOOOOM
TUCKER-- ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
PHEW!
DON'T BE A BABY--IT'LL BE A PIECE OF--

WHOA
OW!
--CAKE?

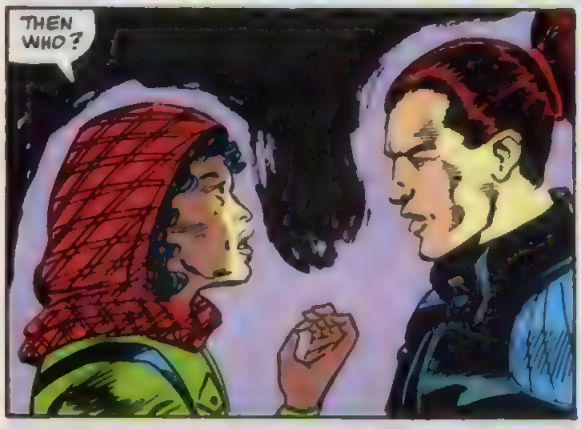
WE MUST PREPARE FOR COUNTERATTACK!
BECAUSE OF TRAITOR, RUSSIANS KNOW OF CAMP LOCATION!
YEAH... PROBABLY.

BUT THEY GOT NO AIR SUPPORT, NO GROUND EQUIPMENT AND THEIR BUNS'RE BURNIN' UP...
WE HAVE TIME.

TIME ENOUGH THEN, FOR REVENGE!
SEDARA-- WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

TRAITOR!!
IT WAS YOU ALL ALONG!
YOU NEVER BELIEVED IN THE MUJAHEDIN CAUSE!
AMERICAN PIG!

UH--LISTEN, KID--
SEDARA.
NO.
NO. STRYKER'S BEEN PROFITTIN' FROM THE ARMS AND DRUG TRAFFICKIN; BUT HE'S NOT THE TRAITOR
NO?

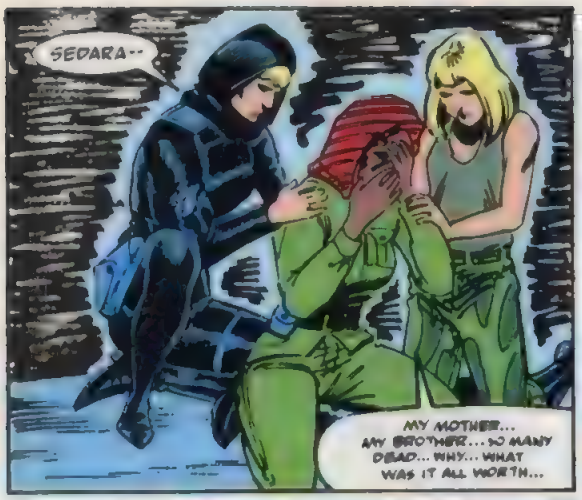

THEN WHO?

HIM. BAKUT.

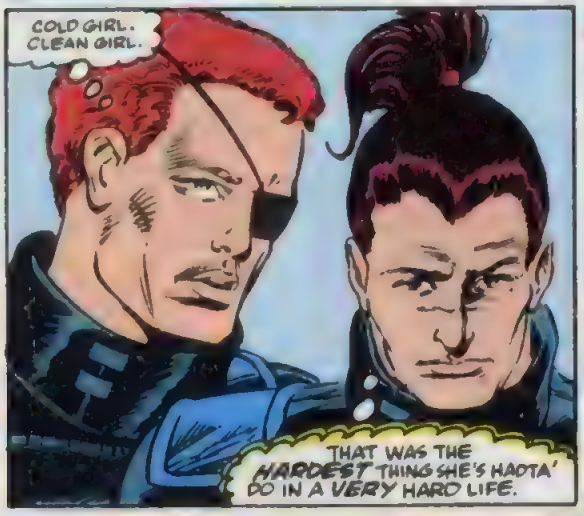
WHY
SHOO
I--I WAS--AFRAID--
WE WERE GOING TO LOSE--TO DIE--WE HAVE LOST SO MUCH ALREADY--I--I WAS THINKING OF YOUR WELFARE, SEDARA...

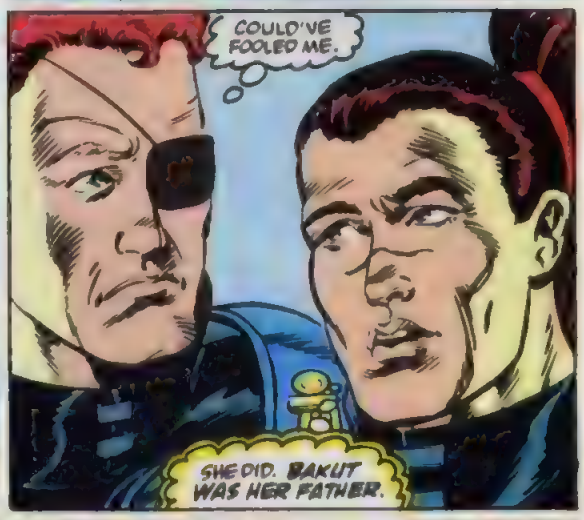
OOOH
I--
UGH

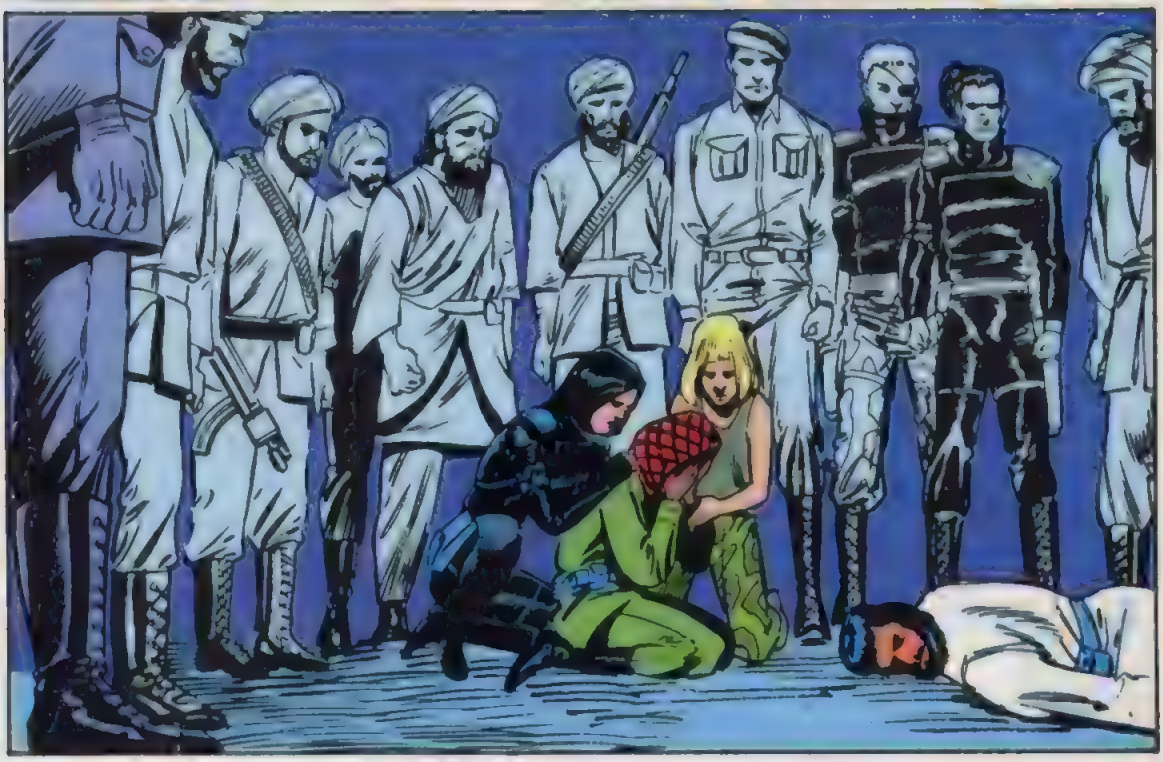
AGH
UH UH
HUFF HUFF

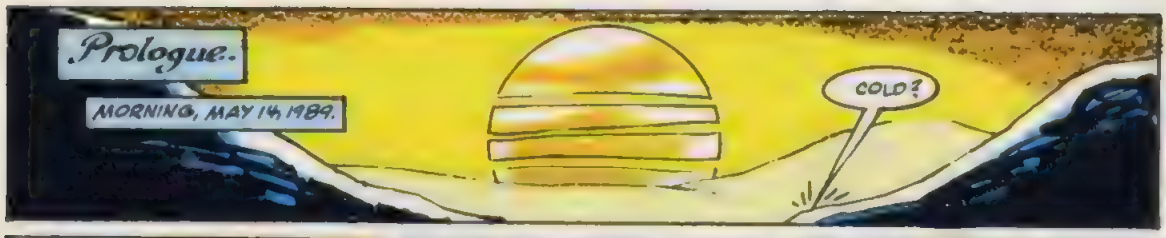

SEDARA--
MY MOTHER... MY BROTHER... SO MANY DEAD... WHY... WHAT WAS IT ALL WORTH...

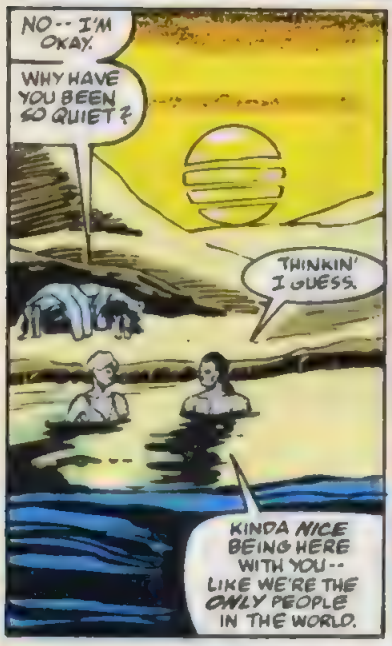
WHAT DID HE GET OUT OF IT? MONEY? PROTECTION?

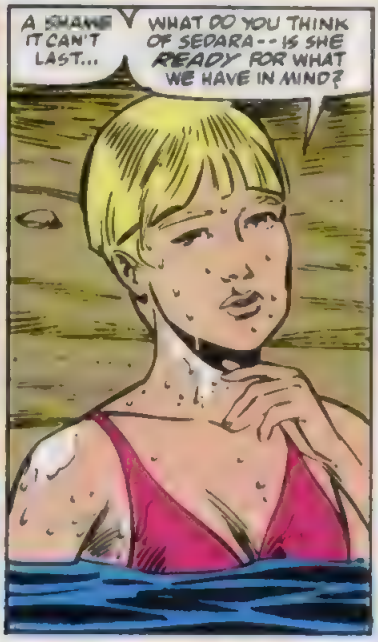

COLD GIRL. CLEAN GIRL.
THAT WAS THE HARDEST THING SHE'S HADTA' DO IN A VERY HARD LIFE.

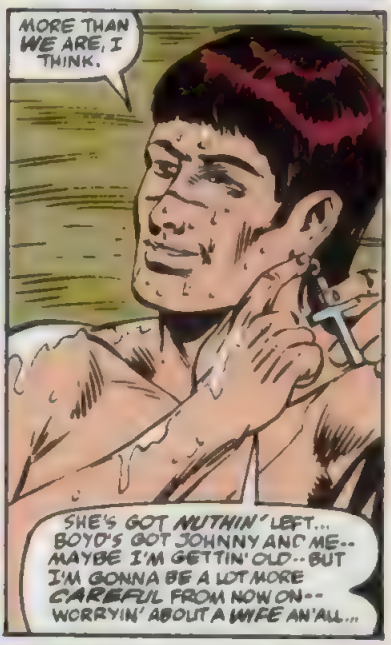

COULD'VE FOOLED ME.
SHE DID. BAKUT WAS HER FATHER.

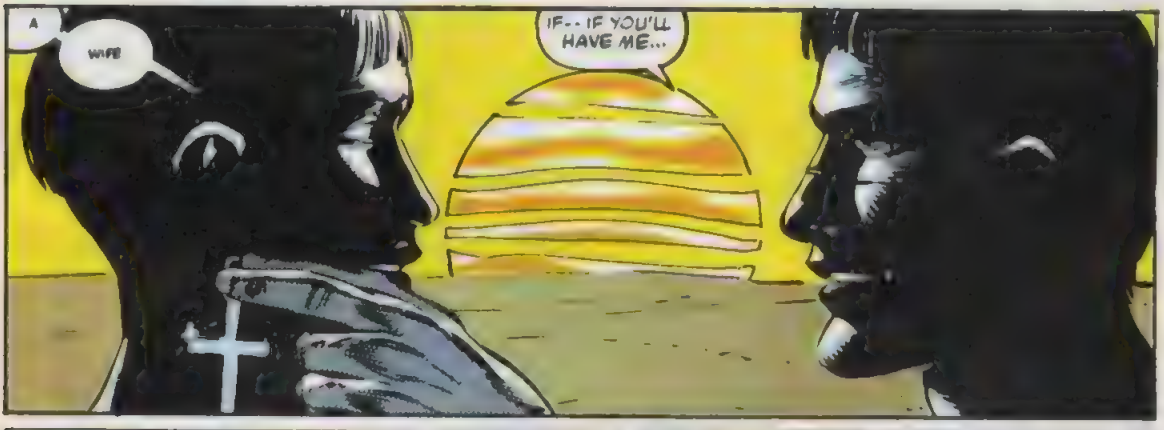


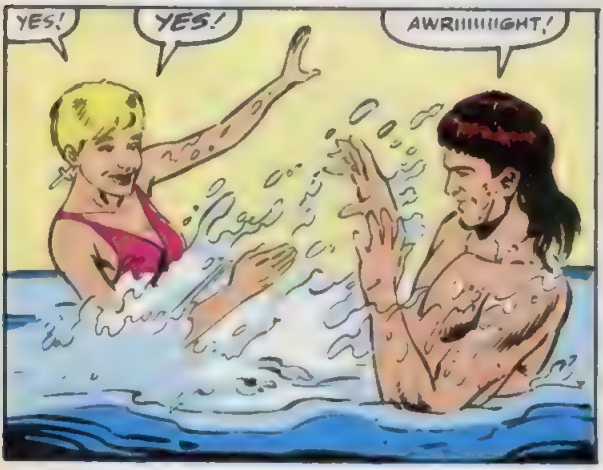

Prologue.
MORNING, MAY 14, 1989.
COLD?

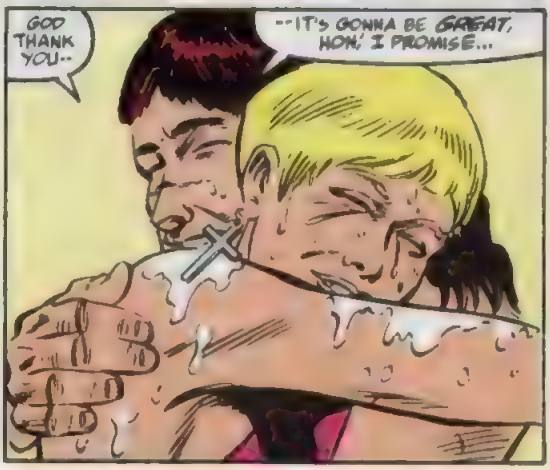

NO -- I'M OKAY.
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SO QUIET?
THINKIN' I GUESS.
KINDA NICE BEING HERE WITH YOU -- LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.


A SHAME IT CAN'T LAST...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SEDARA -- IS SHE READY FOR WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND?


MORE THAN WE ARE, I THINK.
SHE'S GOT NUTHIN' LEFT... BOYD'S GOT JOHNNY AND ME -- MAYBE I'M GETTIN' OLD -- BUT I'M GONNA BE A LOT MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON -- WORRYIN' ABOUT A WIFE AN'ALL...

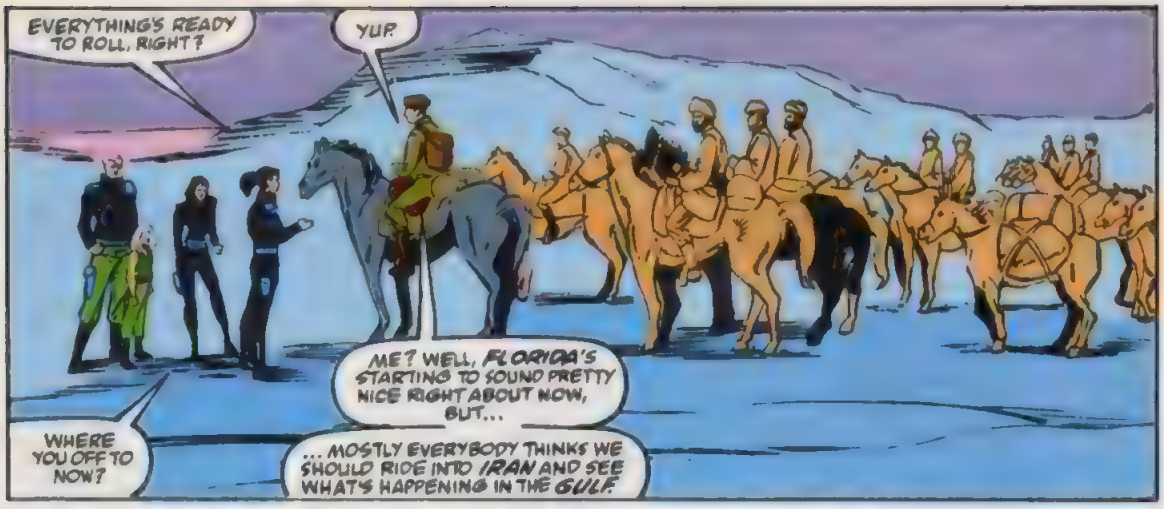

A WIFE
IF -- IF YOU'LL HAVE ME...


YES!
YES!
AWRIIIIIIIGHT!


GOD THANK YOU --
-- IT'S GONNA BE GREAT, HON, I PROMISE...

YOU HAVE TO RUN DOWN FIELD YOU LITTLE--
RRRR
FLUTIE TO STINGLEY-- FIVE YARDS, THAT'S ALL I'M ASKING!
LISTEN TO ME, I FOUND THIS FOOTBALL IN STRYKER'S TENT AND IT'S THE FIRST CHANCE I'VE HAD TO TOSS ONE AROUND FOR MONTHS NOW-- DON'T SCREW AROUND!
YOU'RE HOPELESS, MAN!!
I'M BUSTING MY HUMP FOR NOTHING!
TUFT
ROWR
RASSUM-FRASSUM
HEH-HEH
HAHAHA
OH, GEEZ, YOU LITTLE TWERP-- YOU ARE SOMETHING ELSE!
L-LOVE Y-YOU!
YOU TALKED!!
YOU TALKED!
I LOVE YOU, TOO!
OH, STAS... I HOPE YOU CAN SEE THIS..
..THANK YOU...

< THANK YOU...>
< THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE GIVEN ME...>
< HOPE AND MISERY, GUILT AND INNOCENCE.>
< I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR WAY, FATHER.>
< I THINK FOR MOTHER AND BROTHER'S SAKE, I WILL FORSAKE THE PAST.>
< ... WHEN THERE IS REALLY SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO.>
SORTA LIKE FOLDIN' DIAPERS, EH?
DON'T GET ANY IDEAS...
C'MON, SQUIRT, WE HAVE TO HELP THEM BREAK CAMP WITHIN THE HOUR!
< GOODBYE.>

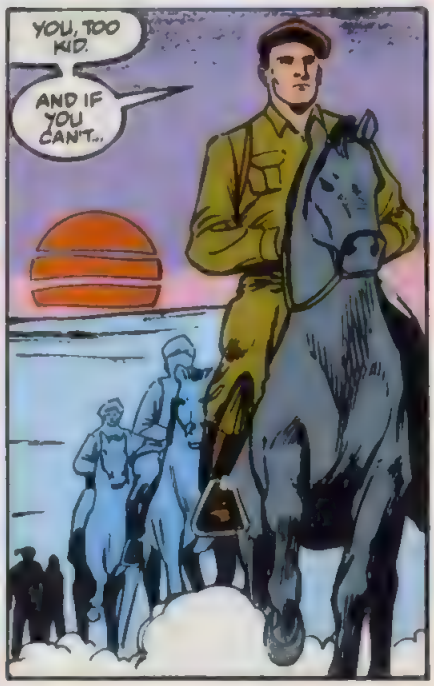

EVERYTHING'S READY TO ROLL, RIGHT?
YUP.
ME? WELL, FLORIDA'S STARTING TO SOUND PRETTY NICE RIGHT ABOUT NOW, BUT...
WHERE YOU OFF TO NOW?
... MOSTLY EVERYBODY THINKS WE SHOULD RIDE INTO IRAN AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GULF.

LOTS OF MONEY TO BE MADE, LOTS OF WRONGS TO BE RIGHTED.
IT'S A LIVING.
YEAH.

SEDARA...
LINCOLN.

MAY ALLAH BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOUR PATH MAY LEAD YOU, CHILD OF THE FURY.

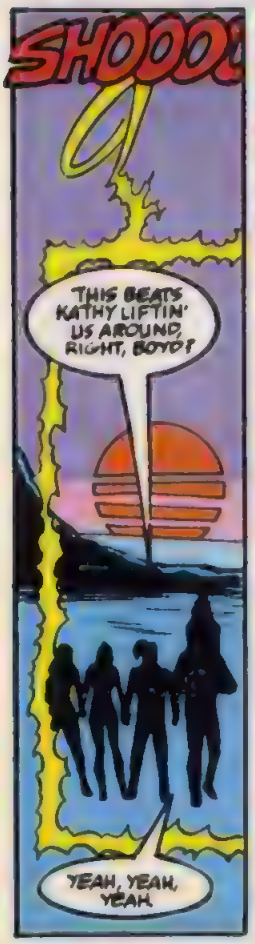
BE GOOD, LINCOLN. RIDE WITH PRIDE.

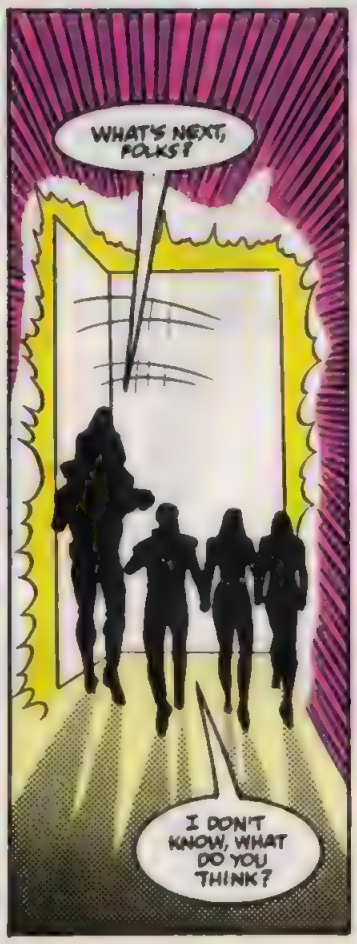

YOU, TOO KID.
AND IF YOU CAN'T..

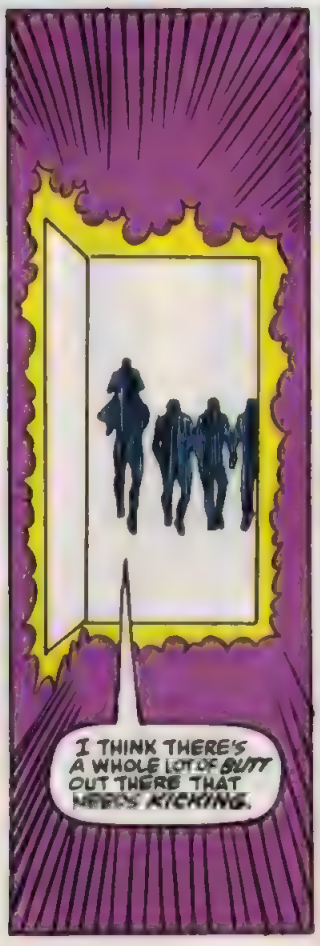
"...MAKE PEACE WITH GOD ON THE STRENGTH OF YOUR CONVICTIONS ALONE..."

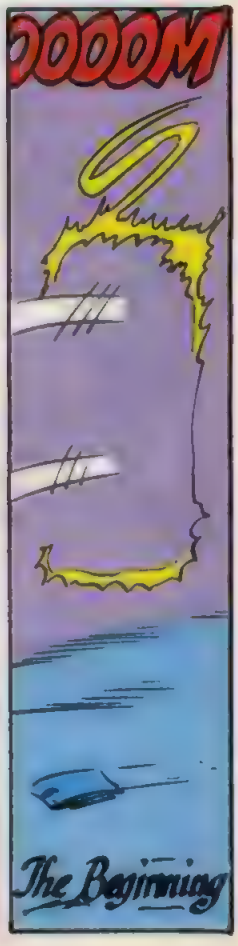
WHERE TO NOW-- SWITZERLAND?
MADAGASCAR?
FRASER?
YOU PICK, SEDARA.
ME? WELL, I THINK SWITZERLAND-- I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE A LAND OF SNOW. BUT HOW WILL WE GET THERE?
YOU CAN ONLY TRANSVERSE WHERE YOU'VE BEEN BEFORE, RIGHT?
WELL, THIS SHOULD WORK. WE OVERTIME ON MY GLOVE, WHICH JUST SPENT A WEEK IN OUR SWISS SAFEHOUSE.
...AND YOU PICK UP THE BIOELECTRICAL FEEDBACK...

... AND YOU CAN FEEL THE SNOW...
THE AIR SMELLS SO CLEAN...


SHOOO
THIS BEATS KATHY LIFTIN' US AROUND, RIGHT, BOYD?
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.


WHAT'S NEXT, FOLKS?
I DON'T KNOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK?


I THINK THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF BUTT OUT THERE THAT NEEDS KICKING.


OOOOM
The Beginning

new universe

LETTERS TO: PSI FORCE

The rumors you may have heard are true. The issue you're holding in your hands is the last monthly issue of this New Universe title. In fact, all of the New Universe books suspend publication this month. Though we tried our best to make the four New U books like nothing else on the market, and indeed captured an extremely loyal hardcore following, the numbers just aren't there to warrant further monthly publication.

Do not despair, loyal New Uniphiles, the New Universe is not dead, it's just in hibernation. On sale this month is the first issue of the four-part THE WAR graphic album, and our plans are to do similar New Universe projects in the same format in the months to come. Let us know who you'd like to see return, okay?

On behalf of myself and the creative teams of D.P.7, JUSTICE, PSI-FORCE, and THE STAR BRAND, I thank you all for making our efforts worthwhile. No one will miss the New Universe titles more than me.

Howard A. Mackie,
Editor

Dear PSI's,

I really like PSI-FORCE, but I have a few questions concerning it.

• Is Wayne dead? I mean, Justice shot him at the end of issue #30. Geez, I've got some luck! First my favorite character, Stasi, dies, and now my second favorite may be next.

• Is Johnny Do going to have a permanent role in the book? I really like how Fabian has handled his relationship with Thomas.

• Is the Psi-Force going to make it back to the U.S.?

• What color is Wayne's hair exactly? I've seen it as brown, orange, black, blue and red!

• Can I order THE PITT from you?

• But most importantly – is the NEW U going to be around much longer? My dealer said it was going to end with a book such as THE DRAFT!

Okay, I'm done. Extend my gratitude to Fabian and Rodney. They've done a great job.

Jack Witzig
Haddon Heights, NJ

Well, Jack, Fabian and Rodney thank you for your kind words and here are some answers to your questions:

No. Yes. Maybe. No, but you can get it from a comic book specialty store or by ordering it from one of the comic catalogue companies that advertise in the mainline Marvel titles.

Dear Psi-Force persons,

Issue #28 was OK. That's as far as I'll go to praise you people. I'm not sure what has happened to this book, three months ago it was host to one of the best stories ever chronicled in the New Universe. The Psi-Hawk/Rodstvow fight was not only professionally done, but it also had one of those classic NewU endings where, as in real life, the good guy doesn't always win and he may lose more than he bargained for.

Now for the question: what are you doing? This comic is different now. It seems as if there are some loose parts to the plot machine lying about. The current plot line is just drifting about aimlessly. The stories used to have a plot but I am being bored to death by all this fooling around at their Russian facility! What's the point? You must make that clear in your plots. Why are you going to spend four issues describing the team's experiences in Russia? Who cares? What are you trying to build up to? I hope it's good. The New Universe needs good stories.

As for this new artist, he doesn't make the story flow. The art is good, but not good enough. The way I see it, his drawing five hundred characters an issue is going to make for a lot of shabby drawings. The art looks rushed.

Don't get me wrong, I sincerely hope this book survives a long time, I just don't think it will if it continues being produced this way. Thank you for listening.

Drew Curtis
Lexington, KY

You make some valid points, Drew, but for the record, knowledge of our impending cancellation was heard before issue #27 came out, which had been plotted months earlier, so don't blame the current art team for that.

Frankly, Fabian himself agrees with many of your criticisms, though he'd like to hear what you think of the four-part storyline as a whole.

The Siberian Project storyline was undertaken for a variety of reasons. It was intended to internationalize our cast of characters, which it has; it was intended to educate our characters to the political realities of the world and mature them a little, which it did; it was meant to resolve some of the plot threads set up earlier in Justice, which it did and it was meant to climax with a final battle against Rodstvow – which it did.

Now if any of this was done as well as it could have been is all subjective. We tried. We succeeded in some regards and failed in others. No one realizes that more than the creative team itself.

We hope the last two issues have been more to your liking, Drew. As for those unresolved plot threads – they will be answered somewhere, somehow – that was our intention all along. Sub-plot development is the lifeblood of a monthly publication such as this. Developing them too quickly or too slowly is always a judgement call. We live and learn.

Dear Fabian,.

Issue #29 of Psi-Force contained two stories, one main story and a back-up which has become so common in the New Universe titles. I prefer the longer, full length features, but I suppose the back-ups are necessary to tie-up any loose ends before the cancellation of the titles.

The Siberian Project Part III wasn't half-bad, but it looks like now that Psi-Force and company have made it out of the Project, their problems are just beginning. I found the interaction between the Psi-Force crew, the Medusa Web and Justice very interesting. It may have taken some time, but the NewU titles are finally beginning to interact the way they should have form the start.

"Dirty Play," the back-up featuring Tyrone wasn't much of a story, but it did help to define his powers.

LATE FLASH from the "Suppose They Had A Contest And Everyone Forgot About It Department"!! Does anyone remember the contest to name the letters pages? I know they had the contest because they buried the names of the winners on the back inside cover a few months ago. Now that the New Universe is close to an end, my bet is that the winning entries will never make it to the top of their respective letter columns.

And speaking of a letters page, why can't anyone manage to provide one on a regular basis? Better yet, why not take ALPHA FLIGHT's lead and start a two-paged letter column every month?

Charles Reynold
Grand Junction, CO

You want it, you got it! Starting this month, Psi-Force will have a two page letter column. Of course, it starts and ends this month, but what they hey.

As for the contest winner... we can't see the mast-head from here, what's it say? Hmmm... maybe next time...

And as for the back-ups – Charles, as our most consistent correspondent, you should know that the back-ups are done for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the fact that very few artists can stand the strain of 28-page stories every month. We think that most of the NewU titles had book length epics as often as possible, all things considered.

Dear Psi-Masters,

I am normally a silent reader, but I decided it's time I wrote in and let you know how much I enjoy your comic. First to Rodney Ramos -- great work! Keep on pencilling and I will keep on buying. To Fabian -- I am enjoying the story so far, but when is it all coming together? I am losing track of the storylines. To the rest of the crew -- you work great together, keep it up!

I did find one error though. In issue #28 on page 18, panel 4, Kathy gets slashed by Shivowtnoeh and she is cut and bleeding. On page 20, Kathy's top has regrown itself. Did I get you?

Chris Yard
Tyler, TX

Yes you did. So there.

Oh, by the way, Rodney says "Bless you" and Fabian says all the story lines come together next issue, so you won't be confused too much longer.

Dear Fabian,

I'm a new reader to your book (started shortly after the Pitt) and am I glad to say I started on it. Yet, there are still questions that I must ask.

I know that Psi-Hawk (is that his name?) is summoned by that medallion and that if more than five people summon him, he goes berserk. Right? Well can nay paranormal summon it? Can a normal person summon it?

Jon Trouten
Harmony, MN

Jon, the Psi-Hawk (yes that is his name, believe it or not) is not summoned by the medallion, but rather by the psionic energy of certain paranormals. Said paranormals must have a specific psychic switch in their heads which would enable them to tap into the Psi-Hawk entity, which was in reality nothing more than the paranormal vestiges of a CIA agent named Emmet Proudhawk.

So could other paranormal help tap into this energy? Sure, Lindsey Falmon and Thomas Boyd did, and they weren't original members. Others might have been able to also, but the point was made moot when Rodstvow destroyed the energy in PSI-FORCE #25.

Dear Psi-Force creative team,

Wayne Tucker's last words in Psi-Force #25 were, "We did the best we could." I beg to differ.

I was very disappointed in what I had expected to be the best Psi-Force comic ever. I mean, after all, the plot had been building up to this for a long time! Issue #24 left me with the feeling of: "you ain't seen nothin' yet," so naturally I was checking the mailbox in eager anticipation of issue #25. Nonetheless, as I said above, I was very disappointed.

There was no way that they could have possibly tried their hardest. Rodstvow could have taken a nap and let the five minds that compose Psi-Hawk defeat themselves. The grim determination shown by the five in the final pages of #24 was totally absent. Tucker and Ty found time to make jokes throughout the comic and the team stopped to chat with Colonel Browning to *ask his permission* to bust Rodstvow's tail! Since when does Tucker care what an authority figure thinks? It was totally out of character for all of the team.

The way the Hawk fought was also pathetic! None of them used their powers to the best of their abilities. Lindsey, Stasi's replacement was utterly horrible. Not only did she do nothing constrctive during the combat, she hurt the team by arguing. Plus she had such a lack of tact and intelligence by pointing out that it was actually the soldiers who shot Rodstvow! No kidding. What a stupid character!

I have one final comment on the story. Way back when Boyd was known as the Psi-Stalker, he fought and defeated the Hawk. When this happened, the five members fell unconscious. Why then did Tucker say, "Do you feel me dying"? Won't the team wake up unharmed a few hours later?

Thanks for listening.

Jason Lioi
Denville, NJ

Where do we begin, Jason? First, we're sorry we had to cut your letter short, but the gist of your letter remains unchanged. You are certainly entitled to your opinion and you even raise quite a number of valid points, but some of your interpretations are a little extreme. That is either the fault of the writing or of your reading. After we explain ourselves, you can decide which.

Yes, the team members did try their hardest to defeat Rodstvow. The point of the story was to show their hardest was hardly enough. They were unprepared for such an encounter and that they were able to survive at all was a testament to how far they had come. The fact that they were completely unprepared for a mind-meld in which they controlled Psi-Hawk (and the improvement in the awareness of their powers -- specifically Wayne -- was what created the meld to begin with) had a lot to do with their inability to properly engage Rodstvow in battle. Look how well they fought in issue #30 as an example of their increased maturity.

Yes, they argued too much, but we are talking about teenagers forced to fight for their lives and that of a city against a being of enormous powers and barbaric disposition. The whole idea of the NewU was to show this in a *realistic* manner, which, to us, means watching them fall to pieces under the stress. Tell us, Jason, how would *you* react?

As for the jokes -- well, we defer to you on this point. From Wayne maybe, because he's a little callous and the cynicism is his way of dealing with the pain, but you're right about Ty (although Fabian keeps saying that as the ultimate team-player, Ty would know when his team needs their spirits raised and when they need their butts kicked -- he *did* try to do both throughout the course of the story.

And Lindsey... well, we have a difference of opinion, plain and simple. Her actions were true to character in this story and she will always try to provide a harmonizing, stabilizing influence to the aggressive attitudes of her teammates. She's shy and she's timid, that makes her stupid?

Finally, yes the team woke up from Thomas' assault on Psi-Hawk in issue #5, but there is no comparison between what the energy being called Psi-Hawk experienced at the hands of Thomas and Rodstvow.

Thomas drained Psi-Hawk and as a result, the Psi-Force team. Rodstvow obliterated the energy and as a result, because of the mind-meld, induced a psychic trauma akin to death which sent them into a coma for over four months! So yes, Wayne's comment was pretty accurate for what he was experiencing.

And thanks for your comments, Jason, it was one of the few negative critiques we've received since our tenure began on this title. You kept us humble!

What do the rest of you think about Jason's comments? Write today!

Dear Psi-Force,

I have heard a very disturbing rumor that you plan to cancel your title because of lack of sales. Let me tell you something, I have every issue of Psi-Force as well as every other NewU title and... and... and if you cancel even one NewU title I'll.... I'll.... I'll start reading DC! All four NewU's are my favorite of all comics.

Also I think that scrapping the long running titles in favor of one-shots is a bad idea because I can get the regular titles through the mail. If I have to go all the way across town just to pick up a single four dollar comic, I might not bother.

Again, I beg you, please don't cancel Psi-Force.

Jason MacEntee
Charlotte, NC

You know, Jason, beggars can't be choosers...

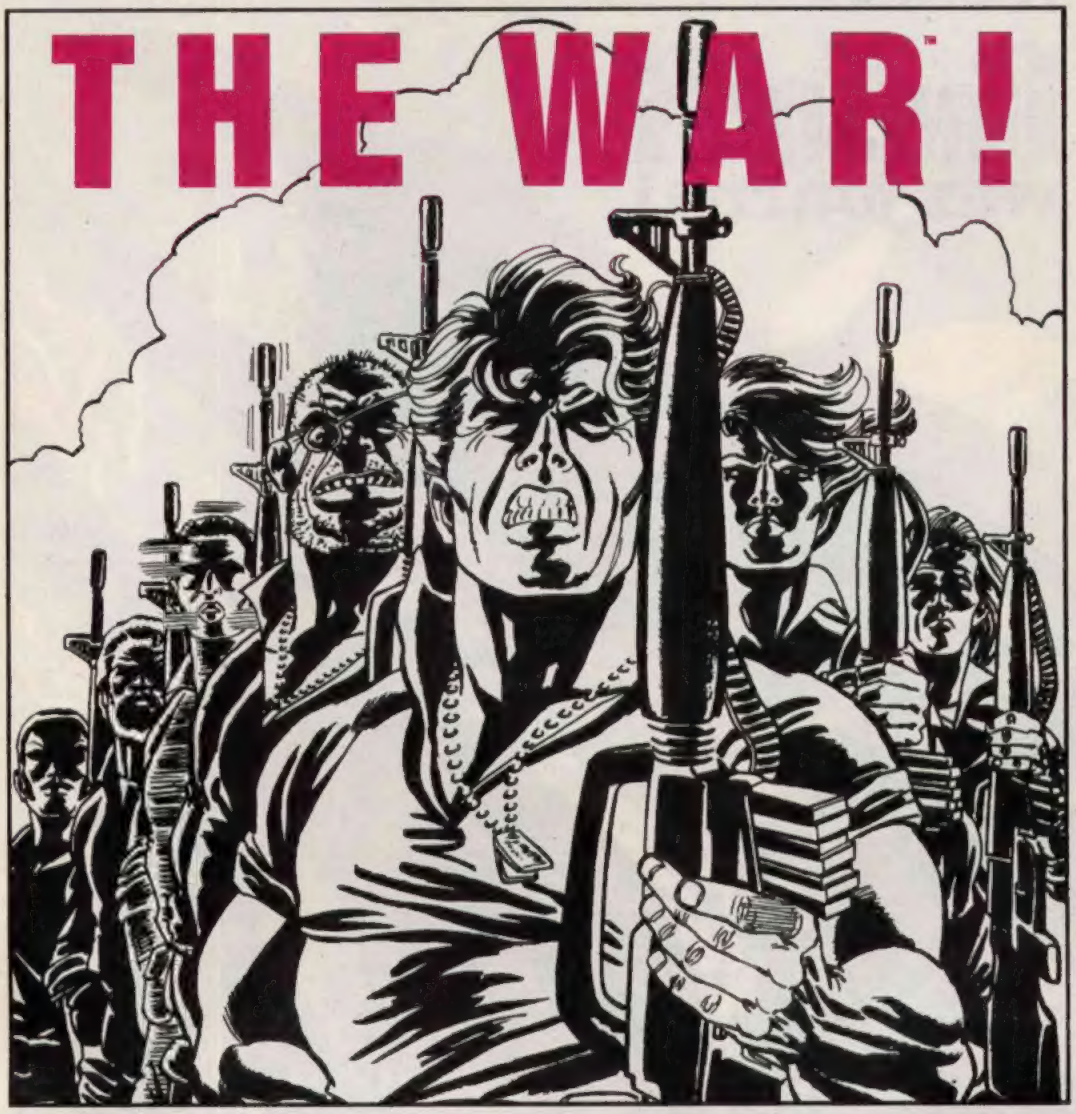
Is the New Universe over? Yes and no. This month does indeed mark the end of our monthly titles, but it also marks the beginnings of THE WAR!

As for us? Well, we're still open for business as far as letters go. Please write in and tells us what you thought of our last few issues. Your comments can help shape the future appearances of the characters.

Let us tease you a little... If the Psi-Force team does appear again, chances are it will resolve the Michael Crawley and Tyrone Jessup subplots. But aren't they members of other teams now, you ask? Heh-heh-heh, we reply.

DAILY BUGLE

35¢ ★★★★ Thursday, February 16, 1989



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